

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03298 130610Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 DOE-11
SOE-02 EUR-12 CPR-01 /124 W
-----086287 130633Z /17

R 101502Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1842
INFO AMEMBASSY SEIOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3298

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, KS, IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI CLOSURE OF EMBASSY IN SEOUL

REF: (A) STATE 58628, (B) SEOUL 1359

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED MOTIVES FOR ISRAELI CLOSURE OF ITS
EMBASSY IN SEOUL WITH MFA DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AND OCEANIC
AFFAIRS AMNON BEN YOHANAN, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SEOUL.
BEN YOHANAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN REVIEWING
ALL AREAS WHERE REDUCTION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURES
COULD BE MADE. SEOUL IS NOT THE ONLY POST TO BE CLOSED.
ASUNCION IS ALSO MARKED FOR CLOSURE (SEE TEL AVIV 961)
AND THE STAFF OF THE ISRAELI UN MISSION IN NEW YORK
WILL ALSO BE CUT SUBSTANTIALLY. THUS NO POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE MOVE IN SEOUL.
THE FACT THAT THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME HAD NEVER
SUBMITTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN ISRAEL WAS A FACTOR THAT
FACILITATED THE DECISION. HOWEVER, ISRAEL WILL TRY TO
REASSURE KOREA THAT THERE WERE NO OTHER POLITICAL
MOTIVES BEHIND THIS MOVE.

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2. ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN WILL SOON GO TO SEOUL
TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS AND WILL PERIODICALLY VISIT
KOREA AND BE AVAILABLE WHENEVER SPECIAL ISSUES
ARISE. BEN YOHANAN COMMENTED THAT HE PERSONALLY
REGRETTED THE DECISION, SINCE HE ENJOYED HIS TOUR IN
SEOUL AND ALWAYS HAD BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED. HE ADDED
THAT SHOULD KOREA DECIDE AFTER ALL TO HAVE ITS AMBASSADOR

IN ROME PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS, THIS COULD LEAD TO
A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE DECISION. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED
THAT THE KOREANS AT THIS STAGE WOULD UNDERTAKE SUCH
A STEP AFTER HAVING RESISTED IT NOW FOR NEARLY EIGHT
YEARS.
VIETS

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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